NCRA is holding its 46th Annual Educational Conference as a virtual event only. There is no in-person conference in 2020. The conference venue notified NCRA that its agreement to host the National Basketball Association (NBA) 2020 Playoff Program would prevent them from hosting NCRA’s contracted 2020 Annual Conference. The conference venue requested NCRA relocate its conference to another venue or be left without a location for its conference. The NCRA Board of Directors and staff reviewed this request carefully. Based on that review, the Board made the difficult decision to refrain from moving forward with an in-person annual conference in September. Instead, NCRA will present a virtual format of the conference program September 21-23, 2020. NCRA’s Board reached this decision for several reasons, including:

- NCRA had no familiarity with the alternate meeting space or accommodations offered by the conference venue, and we were concerned that it would not meet our specific needs.
- The alternate property that the conference venue offered would not open until late August, making the planning for NCRA’s conference at this alternate location extremely challenging.
- NCRA was concerned that if the alternate proposed venue was accepted and there were unanticipated issues associated with hosting the NBA event, the conference venue might make additional demands on NCRA’s use of that space. That possibility seemed daunting to us.

This is not the outcome NCRA desired for its 2020 Annual Conference. However, the NCRA Board of Directors and staff believes this is the best result given the situation. While NCRA knows this development is disappointing to many, we also know that it presents an opportunity to participate in NCRA’s 2020 annual conference for many who cannot or prefer not to travel given COVID-19.

NCRA is excited that the virtual option will allow for its high-quality and unique content with the originally planned speakers to be delivered, including live Q&A. We will also have a virtual exhibit hall, online basket raffles, and roundtable discussions. We will look forward to your registration!

Details on the virtual conference, including FAQs for current registrants of the in-person conference and information on how to register for the virtual conference, can be found at [www.ncra-usa.org/conference](http://www.ncra-usa.org/conference).

NCRA thanks you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to seeing you virtually in September!
Editor’s Note

PAULETTE ZINKANN, CTR | EDITOR, THE CONNECTION

Welcome to the summer edition of The Connection! I am honored to be the new Editor, and am excited about what the future will bring for our publication! This issue brings a lot of important updates, new faces, great information and new ideas. Join me in welcoming President Nadine Walker, who provides insight into her role for building new partnerships and strengthening alliances to ensure that NCRA’s voice is being heard. President-Elect/Secretary Karen Mason provides her view on the year 2020 and its effects on the working world. Janet Vogel, our new Professional Development Director, will update us on the new social media platforms that are available for NCRA members. Our authors have been providing important updates about our upcoming Virtual Annual meeting, news from the Education Foundation, CoC, CAP, our own Education Committee, Advocacy and the High and Mid-Level Strategic Group.

I think what excites me most about this issue is that we’re turning a page, literally and figuratively. Summer is just about over. Normally, we’re still talking about what we did and who we saw at the previous conference, but now, Zoom and Skype are the new ways to meet and greet. But let us focus on what’s ahead as we continue into the next chapter after we’ve turned that page.

We continue on as before. We still provide leadership and education. We still mentor. We still abstract, we continue to advocate. Maybe we can’t walk on the Hill—but we can make our presence known. This has been an extremely difficult time—for all of us—but we continue to overcome and learn. And now more than ever, we need to make our voices heard, as President Walker states “now is the time to ensure that NCRA’s presence and voice is at every table.” So, make sure that your voice is heard. Beginning with our Fall issue, we will be starting a “Letters to the Editor/Op Ed” section to The Connection. We want to hear your voice. We want to get your insight. But most of all, we need you at the table.

Paulette Zinkann, CTR
Connection Editor/Immediate Past President

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1330 Braddock Place, Suite 520
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Phone: (703) 299-6640
Fax: (703) 299-6620
Email: info@ncra-usa.org
http://www.ncra-usa.org

Article Submission Requirements
1. Articles should pertain to newsworthy events affecting members of NCRA, including education, certification and articles of interest to the entire membership of NCRA. Also intended for inclusion are business matters of NCRA. Scientific articles are not appropriate for The Connection and should be submitted to NCRA’s Journal of Registry Management.
2. Articles should be submitted by email to NCRA.
3. The document should be formatted to include any text boxes or graphic art; this will be included in the publication if possible.
4. The NCRA Editorial Advisory Board of The Connection reserves the right to refuse publication of any article that is not appropriate. The NCRA Editorial Advisory Board will review the article and the editor will notify the author of any changes before the publication.

The deadlines for article submission:
October 2, 2020 (Fall)
December 4, 2020 (Winter)
To ensure that we stay abreast of what is new, the 2020 Program Committee and NCRA’s executive team will make history this year by delivering NCRA’s 46th Annual Educational Conference as a first ever virtual conference! The conference will be held September 21-23, 2020 and there are some great educational sessions planned. I hope that everyone can and will attend. Please be sure to read the FAQ section on the NCRA Annual Conference page.

The pandemic has changed so much of what we all knew to be routine. Since we will not honor the outgoing board officers as we usually do, I want to extend my gratitude to NCRA’s Immediate Past-President Paulette Zinkann for her leadership this past year, and to the rest of the board members whose term ended for their dedication. I also want to acknowledge the unfortunate personal loss that some members have faced as a result of the pandemic.

Thank you.

NADINE R. WALKER, MS, CTR | NCRA PRESIDENT

Thank you for allowing me to bring my experience and perspective to the role of President of NCRA. I am honored to represent you this cycle, along with the other members of the NCRA Board of Directors. As cancer registry professionals we are integral to the success of whatever program or project that we are a part of. Each of you, as members of the National Cancer Registrars Association, bring value to the profession. There are over 100 members who volunteer their time to do the behind the scenes, important work on behalf of the association. The leadership of NCRA is appreciative of the skill and commitment of each volunteer, and the Board of Directors thank you for your willingness to serve. It is also encouraging to know that we have an amazing Executive Director in Lori Swain, along with a stellar team in the executive office.

My primary objective this year is to build new partnerships, strengthen our current alliances and ensure that NCRA’s presence and voice is at every table where we can be impactful. It is necessary for others within and outside of the health care community to learn who we are not just in title, but in the various ways that we support and provide a solid foundation for quality health care and clinical research. Along with supporting all of the work of the various committees, liaisons and task forces, I intend to become an even stronger advocate for the profession. My plan is to focus on those activities that will bring awareness to the important and varied work that we do.

To ensure that we stay abreast of what is new, the 2020 Program Committee and NCRA’s executive team will make history this year by delivering NCRA’s 46th Annual Educational Conference as a first ever virtual conference! The conference will be held September 21-23, 2020 and there are some great educational sessions planned. I hope that everyone can and will attend. Please be sure to read the FAQ section on the NCRA Annual Conference page.

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Thank you.

Nadine R. Walker, MS, CTR
NCRA President
Our main focus on Capitol Hill continues to be working with other cancer organizations through our partnership with One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC) to support adequate cancer research and program funding continues to be our main focus on Capitol Hill.

In May, NCRA members Curry Chapman (of Alabama), Karen Mason (Florida) and Sara Biese (Wisconsin) joined members from other OVAC organizations for a day of virtual lobbying with U.S. House and Senate offices and, in some cases, key members of Congress themselves. Curry, Karen and Sara's groups each met with their state’s Senators and their own congressional offices. They presented OVAC’s agenda of increased cancer research and program funding, including the reasons we are seeking a $19 million increase in the CDC's cancer registries program. The registrars stressed that increased funding will modernize the current system of data capturing to collect data in real-time, which will identify new trends as they happen and improve cancer research, public health interventions, and treatment protocols.

Representative Ron Kind spoke with Sara’s Wisconsin group, sharing the very personal story of his son’s fight with cancer. He shared strong support for cancer research and program funding saying, “Now is not the time to take our foot off the accelerator.”

Curry said that, “Overall it was a great day. I was able to provide information about cancer registries and how vital the data is for research, including planning prevention and early detection programs, identifying at-risk groups, cancer causes and prevention strategies, and evaluating treatment efficacy. Each office showed interest in supporting funding for cancer registries and had a better understanding on the vital importance of cancer registries in improving patient outcomes.”

Karen reported that, “Congressman Soto (D-FL) showed a keen interest in cancer registry data and the work that we do to provide this vital information for research. During each meeting, I noticed a keener sense of how important fast reliable data is now as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Congressman Soto was attentive and very personable and put us very much at ease. I was honored to lobby for funding for cancer prevention, screening, and research.”

Special thanks to Curry, Karen and Sara for promoting priorities for registries and registrars that will benefit the entire cancer community’s research and patient care goals.

In mid-March, before COVID closed the Hill, I also teamed up with other OVAC members and visited Senate Leadership and Finance offices in advance of FY 2021 budget work.

In addition to our in-person and conference-call advocacy, NCRA has also been regularly co-signing letters with our allies. Recent letters have opposed limitations on life-saving care for COVID-19 patients (spearheaded by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network) and supported bridge funding to resume medical research once researchers can return to their labs (organized by the Michael J. Fox Foundation.)

Stay up to date with all NCRA advocacy activities at www.ncra-usa.org/advocacy.
Meet NCRA’s New Professional Development Director

Well I have been on the NCRA Board for a hot minute now, and one of the first tasks I have been assigned is to submit an article to *The Connection*. There’s just nothing like hitting the ground running! So, what I’ve gathered from the few Board meetings I’ve attended thus far is how little I knew about all the projects NCRA is currently undertaking for its members and the registry community. NCRA has a powerhouse staff and a widespread network of tireless volunteers that work as a well-oiled machine to meet the goals and needs of this organization. So, as I am learning what my role is as Professional Development Board Director, I would like to tell you a little about my journey thus far.

I know when I began my career as a CTR so many years ago, I was by myself at the facility and there was no social media and internet resources were few if any (who can remember that far back.) Anyway, when I had questions, I had to “phone a friend”. Being new to the profession, I didn’t have any registrar friends right away, so I went to the State and NCRA meetings, introduced myself to fellow registrars, hoping to develop a network of people I could call for advice. It was not easy, but with persistence, I slowly found mentors I could call on for advice. Not only did these people help me out in those early days but I still call on them today. They have become lifelong friends and colleagues. They have lifted me up and helped me throughout my career, an invaluable asset to success. So, if you are new to this field do not despair, NCRA has a mentoring committee designed to match mentors with the most appropriate mentee based on shared backgrounds, interests, and career goals. I recently had the opportunity to meet some of the members of the Mentoring Committee and I am sure they can help you find that “phone a friend” resource that we all so desperately need. Please visit their page on the NCRA website. If you are so inclined, they are always interested in obtaining more Mentees and Mentors for their program, be sure to visit [https://www.ncra-usa.org/Education/ICA-Mentoring-Programs](https://www.ncra-usa.org/Education/ICA-Mentoring-Programs).

Did you know NCRA has a YouTube channel or a Twitter page? I am sure it was widely advertised and discussed at some point, but it just did not register with me. I did know NCRA had a website, a Facebook page, and LinkedIn account but YouTube and Twitter were new to me. I know this is not a valid excuse, but I am of a certain age where my knowledge about social media and what that even entails is not that extensive, however I am learning and growing. So be sure to connect with NCRA through your social media of choice. I can’t wait to see what comes out of the Social Media Committee.

As I said, I am just ramping up and getting familiar with some of the committees operating at NCRA, but I am full of awe and wonder of the few teams I’ve met with so far. Everyone has been so helpful, enthusiastic, and passionate about what they do for this profession and organization, their zeal is absolutely contagious! What an exciting opportunity awaits, I can’t wait to get more involved and I hope you will be inspired to get involved too! Many adventures and connections await…
News from the Commission on Cancer (CoC)

CHERYL SHERIDAN, CTR, RHIT | NCRA CoC LIAISON

2020—A Year we will never forget!

January 2020

Release of Optimal Resources for Cancer Care—2020 Standards. This has replaced the CoC Cancer Program Standards: Ensuring Patient-Centered Care (2016 Edition). The table below provides details on which standard manual will be applicable for your next site visit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Site Visit</th>
<th>Years of Activity Reviewed at Site Visit</th>
<th>Standards Applicable to Site Visit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Optimal Resources for Cancer Care (2020 Standards)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2020, 2021</td>
<td>Optimal Resources for Cancer Care (2020 Standards)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

March 2020

COVID-19 pandemic

Postponement of all accreditation site visits scheduled from March 12th was announced by the CoC on March 24, 2020. Site visits will be rescheduled for late fall through June 30, 2021. Please see the table below for a timeline for future site visits. The accreditation status of all programs will be maintained through the next scheduled accreditation site visit. Programs that are currently working to resolve deficiencies will receive a 6-month extension to their original deficiency resolution due date. Programs will not be penalized for standards that cannot be met at this time. They encourage programs to document the impact of COVID-19 on accreditation-related activities so that it can be referenced by the site reviewer at the next accreditation site visit. The Survey Application Records (SAR) for programs due in 2020 will remain open this year to upload program information, but there is no mandatory requirement to do so until 30 days prior to the rescheduled accreditation site visit date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous Site Visit Year</th>
<th>Original Accreditation Site Visit Year</th>
<th>New Accreditation Site Visit Date/Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Extended 6 months—site visits occurring between September 2020 thru June 2021—see chart below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NCDB Call for Data for 2020 deadline extended to August 31, 2020 (11:59 CST)

COVID-19 Accreditation Tracker

- Documenting the impact of COVID-9 for CoC, NAPBC and NAPRC
- Use is optional by accredited programs

—continued on page 7
News from the Commission on Cancer (CoC)

—continued from page 6

Standards Resource Library
- Newly released June 2020
- This will support the Optimal Resources for Cancer Care (2020 Standards).
- The SRL is located in CoC datalinks and includes a wide variety of resources, program examples, and links to external sources to help guide and assist cancer programs with standards compliance.

NAPRC New Standards Manual & Upgraded Portal
- Optimal Resources for Rectal Cancer (2020 Standards)
- Upgraded portal

CoC Webinar Series—the CoC has developed many webinars to discuss the value of a specific new standard or standards, describe important new requirements for each standard, and offer recommendations for implementing the changes in accredited programs across the country.
- Survivorship Program: Standard 4.8—June 17th
- Concurrent Abstracting Panel Wednesday—June 24th
- Operative Standards for Cancer Surgery: Standards 5.3–5.8—July 8th
- Taking the Mystery Out of QI Projects per Standard 7.3: A How-to Guide—July 29th
- Oncology Nursing Credentials: Standard 4.2—August 19th

COVID-19 Cancer Webinar Series
- Cancer Care Delays: Town Hall Answering Your Questions on What it Means to You and Your Patients (Recorded April 16, 2020)
- Cancer Care Delays: What They Mean to You and Your Patients (Recorded April 9, 2020)
- Multidisciplinary Management of Thoracic Cancer During COVID-19 (Recorded March 30, 2020)
- Multidisciplinary Triage of Breast Cancer Patients During COVID-19 (Recorded March 27, 2020)
- Multidisciplinary Management of Colorectal Cancer During COVID-19 (Recorded March 26, 2020)

CAnswer Forum Live 2020 Webinars
- Monthly webinars available for live or recorded viewing. Please visit the CoC website for the details on all 2020 sessions.

Quality and Safety Conference—Virtual July 24th–27th
- Registration is free and available to all. Please visit the CoC website for the details.
- Presentations will be live and on-demand.
- CME sessions will be available for all sessions.

ACS Cancer Programs Conference: Quality Cancer Care in Motion—December 2nd–4th
- Updated information can be found on the CoC website.

I have provided some important updates and resources available to you—but certainly not all.
I encourage you to visit the CoC website—https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/cancer and become informed on all that the CoC has provided to accredited facilities and Cancer Registrars during these very challenging times.
We are resilient and accustomed to change—we will get through this together as Cancer Registrars.

Stay Well
Cheryl
Call for Nominations

MELANIE WILLIAMS ROGAN, CTR | NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Are you a leader? Have you ever had the desire to become a voice in the leadership of our association and become an influence and advocate to help drive the organization’s strategic direction? Have you ever wanted to expand professionally and share your knowledge with others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please consider submitting a nomination for one of the NCRA elected positions below. Become a voice of the cancer registry profession and help drive the continued success of the NCRA. Volunteering with NCRA is a very rewarding experience that allows you to grow professionally, network with your peers and help guide the future of our organization!

Board of Directors Open Positions
- President Elect/Secretary
- Treasurer Junior
- Education Board Director
- Recruitment and Retention Board Director
- Advocacy and Technical Practice Board Director—one from each region (East, Midwest and West)

Other Open Positions
- Council on Certification Administrator
- Council on Certification Representative

Terms begin June 2021 and the deadline for nominations is Friday October 23rd. All offices are 2 year terms with the following exceptions:
- President-Elect/Secretary is a one-year term with a roll-up to President (also a one-year term) and then Immediate Past President (another one-year term).
- Treasurer Junior is a one-year term with a roll-up to Treasurer Senior for a one-year term
- Council Administrator is a three-year term

Please visit https://www.ncra-usa.org/Membership/Nominations-and-Elections to explore the open positions with eligibility requirements, qualifications, descriptions of each position, as well as application forms.

Please consider nominating yourself or another NCRA member. This is a great opportunity to make a difference in the cancer registry profession and in shaping the future of the organization, while growing professionally, having a lot of fun and meeting new friends and colleagues!
NCRA Education Foundation

SARA BIESE, RHIT, CTR | EDUCATION FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR

NCRA Education Foundation Ambassador Program

The Education Foundation began to launch the NCRA Education Foundation Ambassador Program at the 2019 NCRA Annual Conference in Denver. The Education Foundation invited CTRs to volunteer and serve as an Ambassador by completing an application. The response was beyond the Foundation’s expectations! Thirty-eight applications were received.

What is the Ambassador Program?

The Education Foundation created the Ambassador Program to promote the cancer registry profession to Health Information Management (HIM) schools and other organizations. The program is designed to connect teachers, students, healthcare professionals, and other interested individuals with experienced volunteer Ambassadors representing the cancer registry profession.

Ambassadors will provide presentations, using materials developed by the Education Foundation to increase awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the cancer registry profession. Ambassadors will provide a general overview of the cancer registry and share their personal experiences, as well as answer questions students and instructors may have. The presentation will be made in person or remotely, based on the preference of the requesting school or organization.

The Foundation is pleased to announce that the Ambassador Program has gone “live” this summer. The Ambassador Program can be found on the Education Foundation’s website where schools and other organizations can complete an ambassador request form. The Foundation will receive the requests and the ambassador list will be reviewed to find an ambassador as close to that school as possible. The ambassador is given the assignment and the Foundation contacts the school notifying them that an ambassador will be contacting them to introduce themselves, review their request and make arrangements to give the presentation.

To ensure that all schools and organizations receive the same general overview of the roles and responsibilities of a cancer registry professional, the Foundation has developed a PowerPoint presentation along with speaker notes which is provided to all ambassadors. The ambassadors will also provide their personal experiences throughout the presentation. After the presentation, the school or organization will receive a thank you email from the Foundation and a reminder to complete the Satisfaction Survey. Their feedback is important to Foundation members enabling evaluation and continued improvement to the Ambassador Program.

Earlier this month, I had the privilege to present NCRA Education Foundation Ambassador Program: Connecting HIM Students with Cancer Registry Professionals at AHIMA’s Assembly on Education (AOE) Conference. The AOE Conference brings more than 400 HIM educators together to network, learn, and share best practices. The presentation provided the educators with an overview of the Ambassador Program and the link to the website where they can complete the request form to have an ambassador provide their students with the knowledge of our dynamic profession.

A heart-felt thank you to the CTRs that applied to be Ambassadors! The presentations that you will deliver play an important role in helping the Foundation achieve our mission to support the advancement of the cancer registry profession through education and research.

**Ambassador Responsibilities and Duties**

- Use the provided presentations and materials to describe the cancer registry profession
- Share evaluations and audience feedback with the Education Foundation
- Complete quarterly reports to the Education Foundation
- Speakers volunteer on an as-needed basis as their schedules allow

**Ambassador Qualifications and Skills**

- NCRA member
- CTR credentialed
- Knowledge of provided materials
- Organizational and time management skills
- Good verbal communication skills

**Ambassador Program Mission:** Through partnering with schools help to inspire students to enter the cancer registry profession.

**Ambassador Program Vision:** Fulfill future workforce needs for cancer registry professionals.

To learn more about the Ambassador Program, visit [www.ncra-usa.org/Foundation](http://www.ncra-usa.org/Foundation)
President-Elect Message

KAREN MASON, RN, CTR, MSC | NCRA PRESIDENT ELECT/SECRETARY

2020: Working in a New Kind of World

What a year we are experiencing so far! On June 1st, 2020 I began my role as your President Elect/Secretary of NCRA. I feel deeply honored because I know our members are putting faith in me and I appreciate that very much. These past few months have also found me sheltering-at-home with my only outing each week a necessary trip to the grocery store. The COVID-19 pandemic has turned our worlds upside down and when Mr. George Floyd was brutally murdered, our worlds did another flip. Like you, I worry about the health of family and friends and I worry about systemic racism and how we, as a human race, can eradicate this. Staying focused on my role as a Cancer Registrar and now as your President Elect/Secretary is a good thing. My goal is to support our President, Nadine Walker, and the NCRA Board of Directors as well as all our members as we live and work in a world full of worry, change and community strength.

Health statistics have always fascinated me. I came to this profession by way of a back injury while coding a patient in ICU in 1996. Looking back, I realize I was drawn to intensive care nursing because a lot of that specialty is data and health technology. It was a natural progression for me when a cancer registrar knocked on my door. I am proud to serve NCRA and join a team of phenomenally energetic, diverse, creative and stoic cancer registrars who are working together with shared goals in mind. These goals are to continue advancing this great association and keeping us well educated in a very different world than the one we lived in last year.

NCRA’S 46TH ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

2020 VISION

INNOVATION | EDUCATION | IMPROVING CANCER DATA

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2020

REGISTER TODAY! WWW.NCRA-USA.ORG/CONFERENCE
CAP Liaison Report

DEBORAH DICKERSON, RHIT, CTR

Updates from CAP Committee
The CAP committee held a virtual meeting on June 27, 2020. The information below is a brief summary from the agenda on the committee activities as it relates to protocol content, customer inquiries and 2021 release. There were 255 protocol inquiries received by CAP via the protocol or Ecc inbox, direct to staff or protocol author. The top 5 categories included Breast, GI, GU, GYN and Head and Neck.

- 66% — direct users (Pathologists)
- 34% — vendors (e.g. Epic or mTuitive)
- An additional 50 inquiries were classified as “Not Applicable”. These included:
  - Requests for permission for content use
  - Questions regarding correct template use
  - Accreditation requirements and Technical implementation

Turn around time for response to inquiry ranges from same day 0–35 days. Factors that contribute to turnaround time include:

- Complexity of inquiry/request
- Depth of investigation needed by CAP staff
- Single verses multiple protocols
- Need for committee discussion as agenda

SEER submitted 5 questions to the committee for registry coding clarification. As a reminder, all CTR related abstracting and coding questions should be submitted to SEER via the “Ask A SEER Registrar” portal [https://seer.cancer.gov/registrars/contact.html](https://seer.cancer.gov/registrars/contact.html) or “CAnswer Forum” for AJCC staging and program accreditation [http://cancerbulletin.facs.org/forums/help](http://cancerbulletin.facs.org/forums/help)  

Excerpt Question:
What should be done in the case of DCIS on Bx (ER-/PR-) with axillary LN macrometastases with (ER+/PR-/HER2+) with no known invasive breast primary. Patient received neoadjuvant treatment. Should the registrar code biomarker results from the DCIS, the Axillary LN Bx, or indicate that no invasive primary identified?

AJCC Comment:
There is known discordance between primary tumor and lymph nodes for this. Even if the difference is small, I would not use the biomarkers from the lymph nodes. This case would be clinically staged as cTis cN1 cM0, and use the grade and biomarkers from the in situ tumor for staging.

Additional CAP committee areas of discussion included:
- Biomarker Workgroup Updates
- Prostate cancer protocol updates
- SSP updates
- CAP Today Q&A
- Staging questions

Upcoming AJCC/CAP changes
- pT/pNx’s changes—Chapter 1
- New margin and lymph node sections
- New CAP branding
Education Committee Update

BARBARA DEARMON, BS, CTR

I would like to thank outgoing chair Juliet Wilkins and members. We would like to welcome new members to the Education Committee & Formal Education Sub-Group: Ann Griffin, and Lisa Landvogt. I’m excited to be serving as Education Chair to help address CTRs educational needs identified by the NCRA Strategic Management Plan. I look forward to working with committee members to promote educational activities developed by NCRA for CTRs, cancer registry professionals and future CTRs preparing to sit for the 2020 exam this year.

The NCRA Education Committee’s goals are below:
- Solicit speakers to present topics of interest and determine the best format to present to NCRA membership.
- Evaluate results from educational activities to examine for opportunities to expand educational services.
- Oversee coordination of the Pre-Certification Workshop, online courses and exam preparation web series.

The complimentary webinars for Spring 2020 on Remote Work were well attended by NCRA members during uncertain times with COVID-19. The webinars are available for viewing on the CCRE (http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/other-education-no-ce-credit).

NCRA Education Committee offered two webinar series on the CoC Standards: Transitioning to 2020 and Quality Abstracting: Selected Sites, and a special session on Health Informatics: From Data Request to Presentation this summer to assist CTRs in meeting continuing education (CE) requirements. The archived webinars are available as Learning Modules on the CCRE. (http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/learning-modules).

Complimentary Webinars for Spring
- Remote Work: Productivity Measures/Templates
- Remote Work: How to do a Virtual Cancer Conference
- Remote Work: Preserving Confidentiality
- Remote Work: Security and Technology
- Remote Work: The New Normal
- Managing Remote CTRs
- Working with Remote Staff

NCRA’s Education Committee continues to promote clinical practicum activities that are now available online through the Independent Clinical Advisors (ICA) program. To learn more or volunteer as an ICA, go to www.ncra-usa.org/ICA. SEER*Education staff reviewed the process for ICAs to work with exam candidates on virtual practicum activities. See the presentation at http://www.ncra-usa.org/Education/Independent-Clinical-Advisor-ICA-Program.

NCRA’s Education Department is also updating the CTR Exam Study Guide, online exam prep webinars, and practice test for the 2021 exam. Updates will be posted and available at www.ncra-usa.org/CTRPrep. If you have questions on any of NCRA’s educational offerings, please contact Mary Maul, Manager, NCRA Education Programs, at mmaul@ncra-usa.org.

2020 Summer Webinar Series

4-Part Series Quality Abstracting: Selected Sites:
- Webinar 3: August 12, 2020 Head & Neck Presenter: Denise Harrison, BS, CTR
- Webinar 4: August 26, 2020 Breast Mastectomies Presenter: Sandra James-Steen, CTR

4-Part Series CoC Standards: Transitioning to 2020:
- Webinar 3: 2020 CoC Standards: Transitioning to 2020, Part II, Standards 5-9 Presenter: Courtney Jagneaux, RHIA, CTR
- Webinar 4: August 5, 2020 Cancer Program Implementation Plan Presenter: Penne J. Perry, RHIT, CTR

Formal Education

NCRA welcomes Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson, Kansas, to our Formal Education Program. The school is now offering an NCRA-accredited associate’s degree and certificate program in cancer registry management (CRM).

Also, the self-directed NCRA CRM certificate program is now available on the new AHIMA learning platform.
NCRA Outsourcing & Perception Task Force

NADINE WALKER, MS, CTR | CHAIR, NCRA OUTSOURCING & PERCEPTION TASK FORCE

Understanding Industry Outsourcing Practices and Perception of the CTR Credential

Members: Barbara Dearmon, Mildred Jones, Leah Kiesow, Lisa Landvogt, Karen Mason, Lori Swain (Executive Director), Nadine Walker (Chair)

As part of the work in drafting the current NCRA Strategic Management Plan, there had been survey information collected that indicated a need to explore industry trends further. During this time I was serving as the Recruitment & Retention Board Director and had an interest in understanding more about the perception of cancer registry professionals, and whether this perception had changed over the years. Around the same time a director of a central registry raised some data quality concerns related to work being performed by outsourced individuals. Simultaneously, there were concerns brought forward by an individual member related to how an outsourcing company was deciding that specific registry tasks could be done by non-CTRs. This negatively impacted this credentialed member’s position at their facility. The culmination of all of these concerns prompted NCRA’s Board of Directors to begin work on a project to better understand and learn the answers to industry specific questions related to outsourcing, and to assess perceptions about the Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR).

The NCRA Board of Directors formed an initial workgroup which consisted of members that included myself, Sara Holton, Leah Kiesow, Karen Mason and NCRA’s Executive Director Lori Swain. In the spring of 2019 the workgroup created an initial 22-question pilot survey that was sent to 67 NCI-designated facilities. Of the 30 survey responses received, the use of outsourcing services was present in 40% of NCI-designated facilities, with a quarter (25%) being fully outsourced. Abstracting was the number one reason outsourcing was being utilized in facilities responding to the survey. The CTR credential and the experience of the CTR was an important factor in the scope of outsourcing at these facilities. According to these initial survey results, there was also a favorable view of the CTR professional at NCI-designated facilities. This pilot survey laid the ground work for NCRA to learn more about outsourcing and perception from its members.

Last year, then President Paulette Zinkann made the workgroup an official task force. In the fall of 2019 the Outsourcing & Perception Task Force expanded the reach of the survey and sought to gain more insight from hospital-based CTRs. The Outsourcing & Perception Task Force then welcomed Past-President Barbara Dearmon, Mildred Jones and Lisa Landvogt. Much of the work of the TF at that time was focused on making adjustments to the survey and expanding on some key questions that were aimed primarily at hospital-based registrars. There were also questions for central registries, federal registries and others in the profession. The updated survey was then sent to more than 6,400 contacts in the NCRA database. Of this number, 1,690 survey responses were received, representing a response rate of 26.4%. In May of 2020 the results of the survey were presented to the NCRA Board of Directors. The TF also made several recommendations for the Board to consider based on the survey findings. The Board approved the recommendations put forth by the TF, some of which include analyzing the data further and evaluating industry quality standards.

Today, the work of the TF continues. Mildred Jones will lead a workgroup that will analyze the numerous comments and feedback submitted via the survey to pull forward themes that cover a range of topics. This will help NCRA determine where action is needed based on member’s concerns. Also, a white paper on the topic of outsourcing and the CTR’s role in the procurement process will be drafted. This task is being led by Barbara Dearmon and Lisa Landvogt. As the data from the survey continues to be analyzed there will be more updates provided in the coming months. To learn more and to review the survey results check here (https://www.ncra-usa.org/Advocacy/Workforce/Workforce-Resources).
The purpose of the HLSG and MLTG is to ensure high-level coordination among all cancer surveillance organizations regarding the development and implementation of major changes in standards and procedures. The objective of the work between the HLSG and MLTG is to ensure that updates and changes are implemented in a timely fashion via a well-coordinated and thorough process. NCRA’s representatives have been working with these groups to develop and implement changes under the direction of the HLSG.

One of the highest priorities to date has been the work to develop and coordinate timelines for v21 implementations and updates amongst the various entities and to identify the interdependencies between them, approved in March. A v21 reference page communicating v21 information with the cancer surveillance community can be found here: https://www.naaccr.org/v21referencepage/.

In May, NCRA representatives from the HLSG joined in a new project from NCI SEER and the CAP, collaborating with other organizations involved with the development of tumor classifications, tumor morphology and behavior coding schemes, topography codes, and default grading systems. Their purpose involves the development of a web-based interface that would act as a master table of site and histology/behavior codes. The purpose of the tool is to provide consistent mapping of codes across CAP, WHO, AJCC, etc. There will be more to come on NCRA’s role in this project, such as beta testing and education.

The work of these groups led to the creation of two COVID-19 related taskforces including NCRA representation, one to determine best methods for collecting and documenting COVID information in cancer abstracts, and one to determine how to assess pandemic impacts on treatment. A COVID-19 Text Abstraction Guide was finalized and distributed to central registries in SEER states to share with reporters. The guide can be found on the SEER website here: https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/covid-19/.

In late June, the HLSG approved release of a joint statement from the standard setters providing instructions for Cancer Registrars regarding histology terminology and coding. In addition, the MLTG and HLSG reviewed and approved a proposal from the National Cancer Database requesting four new data fields specific to COVID-19 for implementation in January 2021. Every effort will be made to align with the NAACCR v21 implementation, minimizing delays.

NCRA knows that you understand the importance in COVID-19 data collection to help our patients and will aim to minimize the additional burden, as much as possible. Thank you for your efforts. We will get through this together as a unified cancer registrar community.
NCRA is offering a virtual exhibit hall during its 46th Annual Conference. The dynamic online marketplace will provide an opportunity to showcase products and services and to network virtually with attendees. Interested in exhibiting? Email Caitlin Irvin at cirvin@ncra-usa.org.

**2020 EXHIBITORS**

NCRA encourages members to learn more about the current list of exhibitors! Click the exhibitor names below to visit their websites and see how they can benefit your organization.

- ACoS’ Cancer Programs
- CDC-NPCR
- Ciox
- Elekta
- Electronic Registry Systems (ERS)
- Health Language Analytics
- Inspirata Canada
- NAACCR
- NAVIFY Decision Support Portfolio - Roche Diagnostics
- NeuralFrame, Inc.
- ONCO
- Oncolens
- Q-Centrix
- R.A.M. Healthcare Group
- Registry Partners
**Initiative:** Addressing the Burden of Colorectal Cancer in Mississippi

**NPCR Program:** Mississippi Cancer Registry: Deirdre Rogers, PhD, CTR, Director

**Summary:** Mississippi has one of the highest incidence rates and the highest mortality rate from colorectal cancer in the United States. Additionally, Mississippi lags the nation in colorectal cancer screening. Mississippi was selected as one of six states to implement the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) State Engagement Model (StEM) to build on existing efforts in the state to address the high burden of colorectal cancer. An action plan was developed by stakeholders in Mississippi through these efforts during a meeting held on May 30, 2019.

**Challenge:** According to United States Cancer Statistics (www.cdc.gov/cancer/uscs/index.htm), Mississippi had the second highest rate of colorectal cancer incidence in the United States in 2016 and had the highest rate of deaths. Though incidence rates have declined over time, mortality rates have remained relatively constant. According to screening data from the United States Cancer Statistics’ State Cancer Profiles, Mississippi had the fourth lowest screening rate among U.S. states, with 60.47% of Mississippians reporting being screened for colorectal cancer. Also, according to State Cancer Profiles, Mississippi had the highest rate of late-stage colorectal cancer diagnoses in adults ages 50 and older among U.S. states in 2016. Cancer data from Mississippi show that the rate of late-stage disease has not seen any decrease over time. Statewide partners came together for an initiative to increase the screening rates for colorectal cancer to 70% by the year 2020. Colorectal cancer is a focus of the Mississippi Partnership for Comprehensive Cancer Control in its statewide cancer plan.

**Solution:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention partnered with the NACDD and Leavitt Partners, a health intelligence firm, to assist six states in their efforts to address colorectal cancer. Mississippi was selected based on the data showing the need to address colorectal cancer. Staff from the NACDD began the implementation of the State Engagement Model (StEM) with stakeholders from Mississippi. On May 30, 2019, they led a meeting of colorectal cancer stakeholders to develop a plan to address the need for increased colorectal cancer screening in Mississippi. The planning committee consisted of the Directors of the Mississippi Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the Mississippi Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program, and the Mississippi Cancer Registry, as well as, a representative from the American Cancer Society. The meeting brought together stakeholders from public health, insurance, the state’s only academic medical center, researchers, non-profits, and medical providers. The goal of the meeting was to inform the stakeholders of the data and what activities have been carried out in the state and to develop an action plan with buy-in from the participants for implementation.

**Results:** There were 39 stakeholders in attendance at the meeting. The group heard the presentations on data and what had been done to date to address the need. Then, the group broke into two groups to create action plans around “Increasing Access to Screening Services” and “Provider Delivery and Screening.” To increase access to screening services, the group decided to focus on developing a competitive application for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP) funding in 2020. Also, the group plans to engage two to four health systems and/or health insurance plans to increase screening. Additionally, the group plans to develop a Colorectal Cancer Roundtable in Mississippi to address the burden in the state. This group will lead efforts to engage public, private, self-insured employers to increase colorectal cancer screening in their employees. Before the meeting ended, the stakeholders present at the meeting identified other needed stakeholders and assigned the objectives outlined in the plan.

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Sustaining success: NACCD will continue to support the implementation efforts and provide technical assistance to this process throughout the first year. The Mississippi Colorectal Roundtable will be the group charged with sustaining these efforts, once it is formed. To assist in efforts that are already in place, the planning committee will apply for CRCCP funds when the new funding opportunity announcement is available. The Mississippi Cancer Registry, together with the Mississippi Office of Vital Statistics, will continue to collect the data to monitor the progress towards increasing screening and decreasing incidence and mortality from colorectal cancer in Mississippi.

The Registrars in Action column highlights the impact cancer registrars have on public health. Cancer registrars collect standardized data to submit to Central Cancer Registries (CCRs), and this data are then submitted to the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR). The CDC-funded NPCR is a population-based surveillance system of cancer registries established in 1992. NPCR supports the collection of high-quality data by central cancer registries through funding, technical assistance, and the development of software for collecting and processing data. NPCR works to release the data in accessible, discoverable, and usable formats. Through NPCR, CDC supports central cancer registries in 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Pacific Island Jurisdictions, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To learn more, visit: www.cdc.gov/cancer/uscs. CDC’s U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool displays the official federal statistics on cancer incidence from each registry that met data quality criteria. Checkout this valuable tool at: www.cdc.gov/cancer/uscs/dataviz.

New CTRs

From the abbreviated March 2020 testing window, twenty-six (26) candidates passed the exam and formally became Certified Tumor Registrars. NCRA’s Council on Certification proudly congratulates all new CTRs!

Arkansas
Teddie Emmerich, Alma

Colorado
Domonique Walcott, Windsor

Florida
Laurie Baker, Melbourne Beach
Curtis Burner, Port Orange
Molly Dyer, Tampa

Georgia
Kelly Jacobus, Smyrna

Hawaii
Taylor Bayne, Honolulu

Illinois
Michelle Knoll, Justice
Lia Zamora, Chicago

Iowa
Alicia Diaz, Preston

Michigan
Angela Fraley, Marquette

Missouri
Ellen Welch, Saint Louis

Nevada
Michelle Miller, Sparks

New Jersey
Joseph Dromgoole, Mount Laurel
Kayla White, Orange

Oregon
Alesha Easley, Bend
Jessica Haughey, Portland

Puerto Rico
Jackeline Flansburg, Aguadilla

South Carolina
Sarah Comer, Sharon

South Dakota
Sarah Eichmann, Tea
Sheila Roth, Sioux Falls

Texas
Kealey Owens, Cedar Hill
Arshia Raja, Little Elm

Virginia
Crystal Addington, Castlewood

Washington
Kirstin Flores, Camas

Wisconsin
Teresa Truschke, Marinette
WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED APRIL–JUNE 2020)

Reginald Abadsanto ............ Fort Myers, FL
Crystal Addington ............ Castlewood, VA
Stephanie Aguilar ............ Land O Lakes, FL
Elias Alemayehu ............. Doha, Qatar
Kelly Arrowood ............... Gray, TN
Jaime Bailey ..................... Jber, AK
Jennifer Barker ................ Nauvoo, AL
Hope Barricklow .............. Omaha, NE
Debra Bell ....................... Lansing, MI
Amanda Beltz .................... Katy, TX
Kimberly Bice ................... Frazeysburg, OH
Michelle Boone ............... Plainfield, NJ
Anna-Alicia Brooks .......... Raeford, NC
Susan Butzke ................... Saint Petersburg, FL
Viviana Canate ................ Inwood, NY
rika chichester .. New York, NY
Cristina Ciuntu ............... Roseville, CA
Danniie Davis .................. Marana, AZ
Donna Davis ..................... Jetersville, VA
Sophia Davis .................... Zebulon, NC
Amanda Dawson ............... Clinton, MD
Holly Dillion .................... Vilonia, AR
Thresea Donald ............... Greenville, SC
Teresa Dowell .................. Roanoake, VA
Rachel Dugan ................. Pulaski, WI
Matthew Dwyer ............... Lexington, NC
Nicole Dwyer ................... Waterville, NY
Allison Dyke .................... New Sharon, ME
Diane Flannery ............... Tulsa, OK
Amy Forbus ...................... Waterville, ME
Elaine Gallimore ............. Almo, KY
Stephanie Goldcamp .......... Aurora, CO
Angela Gulley ............... Cookeville, TN
Tanine Harley ............... Portsmouth, VA
Emily Harrell ............ Panama City Beach, FL
Elizabeth Hasl ................. Lancaster, OH
Tanya Hassibauer ............ Eagle, ID
Janet Heide .................. Linden, IN
Angelo Henderson .......... Centerville, OH
Cynthia Horn ................. Fort Worth, TX
Kara Humphrey ............... Sullivan, MO
Lauren Irwin ................. St Louis, MO
Michael Javier ............... Weehawken, NJ
Jesse Jennings ............... Sharpsville, PA
Jessica Johnson ............... Savannah, GA
Kimberly Johnson .......... Mission Viejo, CA
Erin Jones ....................... Joplin, MO
Gary Kallio ..................... New York, NY
Tuba Kasti ....................... Agawam, MA
Teresa Klapperick .......... Austin, MN
Donna Kothe .................. Collierville, TN
Joann LegallGonzalez ....... Cuba, NY
Jennifer Leisenheimer ....... Bemidji, MN
Robyn Leynes ............... Newberry, FL
Joanna Lloyd ............... Warrenton, IL
Cheryl Marcum ............... League City, TX
Piper Mathews ............... Easley, SC
Ferdinand Mercado .......... Bristol, CT
Jeannine Meyers .............. Webster, NY
Joycelyn Moore ............... San Antonio, TX
Nancy Morales ............... schererville, IN
Alyssa Moran ............... Maple Shade, NJ
Donna Mullins ............... Soldotna, AK
Christopher Musicaro ....... Tampa, FL
Fru Ndeh ....................... Montgomery, AL
Susan Neel ..................... Crosby, TX
Breana Norton ............... St. Bonifacius, MN
Yolanda Opoku ............... Bronx, NY

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Welcome to the new members who joined April–June 2020:

Laura Perrin ................................... Hillsdale, MI
Betty Pettway ................................... Dallas, TX
Lisa Phillips ..................................... Dillwyn, VA
Mary Prenosil ............................... West Springfield, MA
Katerina Pugsley ............................ Georgetown, TX
Arshia Raja ..................................... Little Elm, TX
Kersha Ramjohn ............................. Randallstown, MD
Madeline Reynolds .......................... Chicago, IL
Mary Jo Reynolds ............................ Waukesha, WI
Connie Ricchio ............................... Yorba Linda, CA
Erin Roberts ................................... Ames, IA
Brent Rutledge ............................... Bedford, OH
Andrew Saba ................................. Cincinnati, OH
Dyeann Sample ............................... Memphis, TN
Aleksandr Shargorodskiy .............. Beaverton, OR
Ruth Sharkey ................................. San Antonio, TX
Amanda Skidmore ............................ Lexington, KY
Yvette Squire ................................. Port Saint Lucie, FL
Brianna Stefan ............................... Penn Hills, PA
Emily Sundlof ............................... Huntsville, AL
Dione Tobias ................................. Saint Louis, MO
Marla Van Meter ............................. Richmond, TX
Regena Vartanian ............................ Visalia, CA
Tracy Walker ................................. Bronston, KY
John Westerfield ............................ Evansville, IN
Maureen Wild ............................... Prescott, AZ
Jessica Zareno ............................... Virginia Beach, VA
Jamie Zdroj ................................. New Haven, MO